

Message Text

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PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARUCH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, IS
SUBJECT: U.S.-ISRAEL BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL R&D FOUNDATION (BIRDF):
RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN YITZHAK YAACOV

1. CONFIRMING PRESS REPORTS, PROF. YAACOV TOLD SCIATT AUGUST 19 THAT HE WILL RESIGN HIS POSITION AS CHIEF SCIENTIST, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, HE WOULD THEREBY LOSE STATUS REQUIRED TO BE CHAIRMAN' BIRDF, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE V C OF THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE BIRDF. HE SAID THAT THE NEW MINCOMMERCE, IGAL HURWITZ, MAY APPOINT HIM AS AN ADVISER TO THE MINISTRY FOR BIRDF AFFAIRS FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN OF THIS. IN ANY EVENT, HE NOTED, HE WILL WORK INFORMALLY WITH EXDIRECTOR BLACKMAN FOR A TIME. AFTER BLACKMAN'S SEPTEMBER 15 ARRIVAL HERE.

2. YAACOV WILL BE SUCCEEDED AS CHIEF SCIENTIST BY HIS DEPUTY, PROFESSOR ARIEH LAVIE. YAACOV PRAISED LAVIE HIGHLY, NOTING THAT THE TWO THINK ALIKE AND THAT LAVIE HAD BEEN HIS SUBORDINATE FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS WHEN YAACOV WAS CHIEF OF R&D FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. YAACOV SAID LAVIE HAS AGREED TO WORK WITH HIM, AFTER
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HIS RESIGNATION, TO INSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

3. YAACOV BELIEVES THAT HIS REPLACEMENT AS CHAIRMAN, BIRDF, WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR THE ORGANIZATION AT AN IMPORTANT TIME IN ITS DEVELOPMENT, NOTING THAT NEITHER LAVIE NOR THE OTHER TWO ISRAELI BOARD MEMBERS ARE WELL QUALIFIED NOW TO ASSUME HIS ROLE. YAACOV WILL BE IN

NEW YORK ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1, AT WHICH TIME HE PLANS TO
PHONE ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARUCH TO DISCUSS THE
MATTER FURTHER.

4. COMMENT: YAACOV'S RESIGNATION IS UNFORTUNATE
FOR BIRDF. AN EX-GENERAL IN ISRAELI ARMY, HE ENJOYS
GREAT RESPECT IN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY, WHICH HE
HAS USED TO GOOD EFFECT IN BIRDF ACTIVITIES.
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